

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Toras Chaim means a Torah of life and a living Torah, a Torah which permeates every part of our existence, and is relevant to all that we do. It is vibrant, exiting and meaningful. The goal of Congregation Toras Chaim is to create a center for Jewish living that is built on these principles.

MARCH 21-22, 2008 · 15 ADAR II, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS TZAV, SHUSHAN PURIM
CANDLELIGHTING 7:22 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 8:26 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Auntie J.J. in honor of Yoni and Abigail Ruttenberg’s anniversary. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by the shul. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

March 21st

- » Candlelighting–7:22 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:20 PM

March 22nd

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Learner’s Service with Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim: 9:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)–5:55 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–6:55 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–8:26 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–7:25 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Round Hand Shmura Matzah Order:** Pesach is rapidly approaching! One of the main Mitzvos of the Seder is the eating of matzah. To properly fulfill this mitzvah, one must use “Shmura Matzah,” matzah that has been watched and made especially for the fulfillment of the mitzvah. Many people prefer to use the traditional round Shmura Matzah made by hand. We have arranged the purchase of these Matzahs from the Shatzer Matzah Bakery in Brooklyn. When placing your order please keep in mind that there should be enough for approximately 2 matzahs per person, with each 1 lb. box containing 8-9 matzahs. Please print this post (click the printer icon at the bottom of the post), fill in the bottom section, and return your order to Rabbi Yaakov Rich or Shalom Abrams with a cash or check payment, (credit cards can not be accepted), by Sunday, March 30th. Please make checks payable to Congregation Toras Chaim. Orders may also be mailed to Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252. Please keep in mind that Sunday, March 30th is a hard deadline. Orders received after this date will not be accepted.
- » **Announcing the CTC Learner’s Service,** beginning this Shabbos, March 15 at 9:30 AM, under the direction, inspiration and education of Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim. The purpose of this service is to help those attending grow as Jews, and transition, at an appropriate time, to the mainstream Shabbos morning service. Please consider attending this service if:
 - If you feel that Hebrew is an unpassable roadblock on your spiritual journey
 - If you can’t seem to find much motivating about the regular service
 - If you really connect with Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim
 - If you would rather join the regular service but feel that you need a little hand-holding firstMen and women are invited. The service will be approximately 1.5 hours, followed by the world famous, 3-chulent Toras Chaim kiddush (including the ever-popular, politically correct, vegetarian chulent). We don’t offer babysitting at this time, however, a playroom is available where children may play quietly under supervision of a responsible adult. Our address is 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252. You may reach Rabbi Yaakov Rich at (972) 248-1324 or Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim at (469) 744-9260 for more information.
- » **CTC Purim Seudah:** Thank you to Shalom and Shira Abrams for all their hard work in cooking and setting up for the Purim seudah. Thanks to Eliyahu, Tzvi Eliezer, and Yirmiyahu Rich for helping to set up, and thank you to everyone else who contributed to help make this such an incredible event.
- » **Doron: Story of a True Tzaddik:** Doron Mahareta (left) of blessed

and saintly memory HY”D was one of the eight Yeshiva students that were massacred last week in Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav in Jerusalem. Last night, at the shiva house for Doron’s family every single type of Jew was sitting together, from Ethiopians to Polish Chasidim, from knit kippot to Yerushalmi white kippot, from jeans and sandals to long black frocks. Too bad that it takes a martyr of Doron’s magnitude to unite everyone. One of the rabbis from Mercaz HaRav told the most amazing story you’ll ever hear about Doron’s dedication to learning Torah, a story that competes with the Gemara’s account of Hillel’s near freezing on the roof of Shmaya and Avtalion’s Yeshiva (see tractate Yoma, 35b). Doron wanted to learn Torah in Mercaz HaRav, one of the best of Israel’s yeshivas. But, since his early schooling was in Ethiopia, he lacked a strong background in Gemara. The Yeshiva rejected him. He wasn’t discouraged. He asked, “If you won’t let me learn Torah, will you let me wash the dishes in the mess hall?” For a year and a half, Doron washed dishes. But, he spent every spare minute in the study hall. He inquired what the yeshiva boys were learning, and spent most of the nights and all of his Shabbasim with his head in the Gemara learning what they learned. One day, the “dish washer” asked the Rosh Yeshiva to test him. The Rosh Yeshiva politely smiled and tried to gently dismiss Doron, but Doron wouldn’t budge. He forced the Rosh Yeshiva into a Torah discussion; the next day, he was no longer a dish washer but a full-fledged “yeshiva bachur”. On weekends, when Doron would come home to visit his family in Ashdod, he’d spend the entire Shabbat either in the Melitzer Shul or the neighboring Gerrer shtiebel learning Shulchan Aruch and its commentaries. Three weeks ago, he finished the entire Shulchan Aruch and principle commentaries. Doron achieved in his tender 26 years what others don’t attain in 88 years. He truly was an unblemished sacrifice, who gave his life for all of us.

■ AHAVAS CHESED (LOVING KINDNESS) BY THE CHOFETZ CHAIM:

The Torah delivers the ultimate indictment against the lack of chesed, equating it with the cardinal sin of idol worship. There is, however, a way to steer clear of guilt on this account as one negotiates the ebb and flow of daily life. That is by keeping one’s thoughts from straying into the dangerous mind-set of “denial.” The Midrash (Koheles Rabbah, Parsha 7, 4), in its indictment of the chesed evader, says: “If someone denies chesed, it is as if he denies Hashem Himself.” The use of the word “deny” is unusual. chesed is either done or not done; what is there to deny? The Chofetz Chaim explains: The denier of chesed is denying the value of chesed. In doing so, he denies the basis upon which Hashem has built the world. “Even though chesed is Your very essence, it’s nothing to me,” he tells Hashem through his thoughts and actions.

This attitude rises to the level of idol worship. The Talmud (Kesubos 68a) states the equation clearly: “Whoever averts his eyes from giving tzedakah, it is as if he is an idol worshipper.” The verse describes a person who looks away, who gets busy, who suddenly must leave the room when the needy person is spotted approaching. Such a response could never emanate from a heart that comprehends chesed as the purpose of existence.

One who downplays the importance of chesed in his mind is guaranteed to stumble upon dire consequences. Each opportunity to help will present a new stumbling block. This individual will constantly place his own convenience and comfort ahead of another person’s needs. He will convince himself that the other person doesn’t really require or deserve his help. He will fail life’s tests again and again.

Therefore, says the Chofetz Chaim, one should “distance himself from these bad thoughts” and seek instead to emulate Hashem by doing good for others. Usually, the term “bad thoughts” refers to heresy, temptation or lust, but here it refers to the thought that chesed is not a matter of importance or value. The Chofetz Chaim doesn’t just warn against failing to perform acts of kindness or give charity; he takes the warning a step further. One must not even allow oneself to entertain the thoughts that inevitably will lead to these lapses.

Instead, a person must work on internalizing the Torah’s perspective: the more one gives, the more one receives. In that light, every request for help becomes an opportunity. Every favor, every dollar given or loaned, is seen as sure-fire investment—a penny stock guaranteed to earn a million times its initial worth.

The righteous Jew of generations past—and still today—prefaced his night’s sleep with the question, “What act of kindness did I do for a fellow Jew today?” If he could not recall an instance of chesed, he would commit himself to helping someone the next day. Only then could he fall asleep. To such a person, the lack of chesed is a tangible feeling, a breach in the neshamah that must be repaired. One who trains himself in this way of thinking earns himself full-fledged membership in the Jewish people, the human race and the world Hashem created.

From the Appel Edition: Chofetz Chaim Loving Kindness by ArtScroll

■ RECOLLECTION AND RECOGNITION

For \$18 you can sponsor a greeting in memory of a loved one, in honor of a deserving friend or family member, or in recognition of an outstanding achievement. Please call Rabbi Rich at 972-248-1324 by Thursday afternoon to place your greeting.

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■ ONGOING CLASSES

The Kosher Kitchen: Tuesday, 8-9 PM

The Kosher Kitchen is a course designed to help in the intricacies of what goes into the making and upkeep of a kosher kitchen. This course is for you, whether you do, or don’t, have a background in kosher living. Topics to be covered include: Koshering Treif Utensils, Koshering Ovens, Sinks, Appliances and Tabletops, Tevilas Kalim, Pas Akum / Pas Palter, Bishul Akum / Maids, Introd. to Mixtures of Meat and Milk / Types of Cooking / Chanukah candles, Maris Ayin / Pareve Eggs/ Cheese / Gelatin, Serving Meat and Milk/ Waiting Between Meat and Milk, Eating on non-Kosher plates /non-Kosher Restaurant, Food Flying Around the Kitchen, Splashes During Cooking, Using the Wrong Spoon at the Wrong Time, Separating Meat and Milk, Washing Dishes/ Dishwasher Problems

Recipe for Spiritual Greatness
Path of the Just–Mesilas Yesharim: Wednesday, 8-9 PM

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, better known as the RaMCHaL, authored a book on spiritual and character development that is widely considered to be the quintessential book of its kind. In fact,

the Vilna Gaon said of himself that he would crawl across Europe to learn in the dust of the RaMCHaL’s feet.

Spend an hour each week with Rabbi Yaakov Rich, developing a Torah approach to personal growth using the ultimate self-help book. Discover qualities and potential you never knew you had, as you climb the ladder toward spiritual greatness.

There is no cost for the class, but participants will need to purchase a copy of Path of the Just, which is available by Feldheim in Hebrew with an English translation. Books are available for purchase from Lone Star Judaica, at the corner of Hillcrest and Frankford. This class is for men and women, from beginner to advanced. The class is taught every Wednesday, 8 PM at Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252.

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS TZAV

QUESTIONS

1. What separated the kohen’s skin from the priestly garments?
2. How often were the ashes removed from upon the mizbe’ach? How often were they removed from next to the mizbe’ach?
3. If someone extinguishes the fire on the mizbe’ach, how many Torah violations has he transgressed?
4. The portion of a flour-offering offered on the mizbe’ach may not be chametz. But is the kohen’s portion allowed to be chametz?
5. When a kohen is inaugurated, what offering must he bring?
6. What three baking processes were used to prepare the korban of Aharon and his sons?
7. What is the difference between a minchat kohen and a minchat Yisrael?
8. When is a kohen disqualified from eating from a chatat?
9. What is the difference between a copper and earthenware vessel regarding removing absorbed tastes?
10. Can an animal dedicated as an asham be replaced with another animal?
11. How does an asham differ from all other korbanot?
12. Unlike all other korbanot, what part of the ram or sheep may be placed on the mizbe’ach?
13. What three types of kohanim may not eat from the asham?
14. In which four instances is a korban todah brought?
15. Until when may a todah be eaten according to the Torah? Until when according to Rabbinic decree?
16. How does a korban become pigul?
17. Who may eat from a shelamim?
18. What miracle happened at the entrance of the Ohel Moed?
19. Other than Yom Kippur, what other service requires that the kohen separate from his family?
20. What are the 5 categories of korbanot listed in this Parsha?

ANSWERS

1. 6:3 - Nothing.
2. 6:4 -A) Every day. B) Whenever there was a lot.
3. 6:6 - Two.
4. 6:10 - No.
5. 6:13 - A korban mincha -- A tenth part of an ephah of flour.
6. 6:14 - Boiling, baking in an oven and frying in a pan.
7. 6:15 - The minchat kohen is burnt completely. Only a handful of the minchat Yisrael is burnt, and the remainder is eaten by the kohanim.
8. 6:19 - If he is tamei (spiritually impure) at the time of the sprinkling of the blood.
9. 6:21 - One can remove an absorbed taste from a copper vessel by scouring and rinsing, whereas such a taste can never be removed from an earthenware vessel.
10. 7:1 - No.
11. 7:3 - It can only be brought from a ram or sheep.
12. 7:3 - The tail.
13. 7:7 - A t’vul yom (a tamei kohen who immersed in a mikveh yet awaits sunset to become tahor); A mechusar kipurim (a tamei person who has gone to the mikveh but has yet to bring his required offering); An onan (a mourner prior to the burial of the deceased).
14. 7:12 - Upon safe arrival from an ocean voyage; Upon safe arrival from a desert journey; Upon being freed from prison; Upon recovering from illness.
15. 7:15 - (a) Until the morning. (b) Until midnight.
16. 7:18 - The person slaughters the animal with the intention that it be eaten after the prescribed time.
17. 7:19 - Any uncontaminated person (not only the owner).
18. 8:3 - The entire nation was able to fit in this very small area.
19. 8:34 - The burning of the parah adumah (red heifer).
20. Olah (6:2); mincha (6:7); chatat (6:18); asham (7:1); shelamim (7:11).

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–7:22 PM
- » Friday Night, March 21st, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–7:20 PM
- » Shabbos Morning, March 22nd–8:30 AM

- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–5:55 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–6:55 PM / Sunset–7:41 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–8:26 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning March 23, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM

- » Mincha–7: 25 PM Standard Time

WEEKLY CLASSES

- » **Amud Yomi: Gemara** for men with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (M-Fr, 6-6:35 AM)
- » **Path of the Just** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Wednesday 8-9 PM)
- » **Chumash** for men and women (Shabbos one hour before Mincha)
- » **Laws of Tefillin** for men (Sunday morning after Shacharis)
- » **Chumash** for women (Sunday, 8-9 PM) On break until after Pesach

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.